



NEWS RELEASE

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Competition Authority plans Market Studies as part of work plan

The Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority (the Authority) has announced it will conduct a series of Market Studies as part of its annual work programme.

A Market Study is a flexible tool to explore whether a market is working well for Jersey consumers. It considers the relationship between consumer behaviour in a market, the behaviour of firms in that market, and the market's structure. By looking at these relationships, the Authority can determine whether action that will encourage changes to consumer behaviour, business behaviour, or both, will help address any market problems found.

The outcomes of a market study may be one or more of the following:

- A clean bill of health for the market;
- Consumer/business focused action;
- Non-binding recommendations to Government; and/or
- Investigation and enforcement action.

Consistent with the Authority's prioritisation principles, the focus is on markets where there is the potential to have the greatest impact for Jersey consumers.

For each Market Study the Authority will publish terms of reference setting out the scope of the study and proposed timeframe, and is likely to work with sector-specific

experts. The Authority is also likely to issue a call for information from interested parties.

Before issuing its final report on the Market Study outcome, the Authority may release an interim report and findings to seek views. Any recommendations in the final report will be non-binding on Government, but may include recommended measures to improve the performance of markets, such as changes to regulation, policy or the conduct of market participants.

Senior Economic Case Officer Peter Hetherington says “Market Studies are a valuable means of building a helicopter view of how a market is performing: It is commonplace in other jurisdictions for competition regulators to take a closer look at sectors of the economy that have a significant impact on the wellbeing of consumers and citizens generally.”

“In many instances nothing untoward will be discovered, but where changes or improvements in the way a market is operating can be made, then the results of a market study can help inform policy and strategy, and in some cases the Authority can take direct action to intervene.”

The Authority has undertaken a number of market studies in the past including the freight market, fuel market, groceries market and motor trade market. These can be viewed on the Authority’s website www.jcra.je. It’s expected that the first Market Study will be confirmed in June 2021.

Ends

NOTES TO EDITORS:

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About The Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority:

The Authority was established under the Competition Regulatory Authority (Jersey) Law, 2001. It is responsible for administering and enforcing the Competition (Jersey) Law 2005 and also regulates the Ports of Jersey, the postal and telecoms sectors.

The Authority strives to ensure that the markets work well for the benefit of all stakeholders, including Government, business, citizens and consumers facilitating best value, choice and access to high quality services.